

A. D.
1776.

and meeting of
the Legislature
under this con-
stitution.

chosen to that office until the first day of October in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-eight, provided the freemen think proper to re-elect them at every general election; and the present Sheriffs and Coroners respectively shall continue to exercise their offices as heretofore until the Sheriffs and Coroners to be elected on the said twenty-first day of October shall be commissioned and sworn into office. The Members of the Legislative Council and Assembly shall meet for transacting the business of the state on the twenty-eighth day of October next, and continue in office until the first day of October which will be in the year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-seven; on which day, and on the first day of October in each year forever after, the Legislative Council, Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners, shall be chosen by ballot in manner directed by the several laws of this state for regulating elections of Members of Assembly and Sheriffs and Coroners; and the General Assembly shall meet on the twentieth day of the same month for the transacting the business of the state; and if any of the said first and twentieth days of October should be Sunday, then and in such case the elections shall be held and the General Assembly meet the next day following.

of the freedom
of election

ART. 28. To prevent any violence or force being used at the said elections, no persons shall come armed to any of them; and no muster of the militia shall be made on that day, nor shall any battalion or company give in their votes immediately succeeding each other, if any other voter who offers to vote objects thereto; nor shall any battalion or company in the pay of the Continent, or of this or any other state, be suffered to remain at the time and place of holding the said elections, nor within one mile of the said places respectively for twenty-four hours before the opening said elections, nor within twenty-four hours after the same are closed, so as in any manner to impede the freely and conveniently carrying on the said election: *Provided always*, That every elector may in a peaceable and orderly manner give in his vote on the said day of election.

ART. 29. There shall be no establishment of any
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